

# GREEN transmissions

Winter 1995



## EECO '95 - MOVING AHEAD!

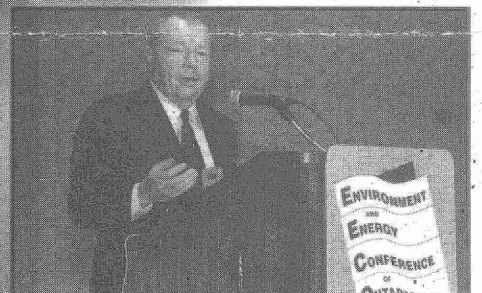
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*MOEE Excellence in Research and Technology Development Award winners: left to right — Steve Jenkins and Vince Taguchi, Lab Services Branch, Neville Reid, Science and Technology Branch, Peter Golobic, Industry Conservation Branch*



*EECO speakers—  
Top: Brenda Elliott.  
Centre: David Crombie.  
Bottom: Roberta Bondar.*

### FACING THE FUTURE —

that was the theme of this year's Environment and Energy Conference of Ontario (EECO) opened on October 31 by Minister Brenda Elliott. The three-day international conference was held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

Again this year, the conference was an overwhelming success, with more than 800 people attending. Visitors were treated to three days of outstanding speakers including David Crombie and Roberta Bondar.

Ontario's largest and most comprehensive environment and energy forum, EECO 95 also featured hours of stimulating discussion, 160 verbal presentations and more than 90 poster displays and exhibits. An International Partnering Event focusing on the Great Lakes attracted 65 companies from Ontario and the United States. A solar car from Queen's University proved to be one of the most popular attractions this year.

Under the stewardship of conference chair Linda Ploeger, this year's EECO team worked tirelessly to ensure that even the minutest details were attended to. Once again the Industry Conservation Branch's Roger Scott chaired the organizing committee, while manager George Zegarac oversaw the operation. Other members of this year's organizing committee

included Kirsten Mania, Roger's right-hand person; Val Maraglia, Jessy John, Ana Giorno and Jan Stein, Marjan Medved and Frank Loconte from Communications Branch and Nora Gurland of the Green Industry Office. Once they catch their collective breaths, you can be sure they'll be back at it again, planning EECO 96. Great work, everyone! ■



*EECO organizing committee: left to right—Riaz Vellani, Ana Giorno, George Zegarac, Val Maraglia, Roger Scott, Linda Ploeger, Marjan Medved, Kirsten Mania, Jan Stein and Jessy John.*

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# The road to cleaner air

by Maria Vucajnk

**A**RE YOU PICKING SOMEONE UP AT PEARSON AIRPORT IN THE near future? Then why not stop in at the ClearAir centre for a free, vehicle emissions test? It's right next door to the airport and it takes only 20 minutes.

Many people have already taken advantage of this free service since the centre opened last April. So far, more than 7,000 vehicles have passed through the facility. "The results of our testing show that Ontario vehicles are in need of emissions repairs just as vehicles in other jurisdictions are," says Michael Young of the Transportation Programs Section, who's stationed at the centre. "You aren't obligated to make the repairs suggested, but if you do, you could lessen the effect your vehicle has on the environment and your health and save on fuel," adds Young. A poorly tuned engine can suck up to 10 per cent more fuel, while tire drag due to under inflation increases fuel consumption by four to eight per cent.

At the centre, technical experts test your vehicle to ensure the emissions control system is in good order. They also tell you how to save on fuel and how to maintain a cleaner vehicle that pollutes less. Your car actually goes through two tests. The first one checks your exhaust, as a technician drives it through a test lane. The second test is more thorough, analyzing your vehicle's emissions as it speeds up, cruises and slows down. This is done on a dynamometer, a set of rollers which allow the car to mimic the effects of driving on a road. All cars and light trucks that are powered by gasoline, diesel, propane, natural gas, ethanol and methanol can be tested at the centre. This includes four-wheel drive vehicles.

And while your car gets a thorough checkup, you can wait in a comfortable reception area complete with reading material, soft drinks and a video on the centre's state-of-the-art vehicle



## ClearAir Centre wins Air Share Award

An Air Share Award was presented to MTO's Dave Petherick, MOEE's Michael Young and ProtectAir's Steve Quinn by the Clean Air Partnership on November 15.

Air Share awards are given out annually to recognize and reward organizations for making progress or positive contributions towards healthier air.

The Clean Air Partnership is a coalition of more than 30 businesses, institutions, governmental and non-governmental organizations committed to improving indoor and outdoor air quality in the GTA.

testing procedure. When it's all done, a technician goes over the report outlining your car's condition with you and tells you what you can do about it.

"Air pollution is a serious problem in southern Ontario," says Marcia Weaver, manager of Program Development Branch's Transportation Programs section. About 35 per cent of all emissions that contribute to smog, come from the transportation sector and 80 per cent of those emissions come from cars, trucks and buses.

So if you drive a car and want to minimize the effect it has on the environment, visit the ClearAir Centre. And, most important, follow through on any recommendations the staff may have for your vehicle. ■



DON'T DRIVE IF YOU don't have to. There are other ways to get you where you want to go. Use your own power! Your health will benefit and your environment will benefit. Here's how:

### Walk or cycle whenever possible

You'll become more physically fit, lose weight and save money on gas and health club fees. Muscle power and pedal power are pollution free.

### Use public transit

You'll improve your time management. Rather than getting stuck in heavy traffic and increasing your stress level, relax and catch up on business or pleasure reading on public transit.

One bus load of passengers means 40 fewer vehicles on the road, saves 83,000 litres of fuel and reduces air pollutants by 11.5 tonnes a year.

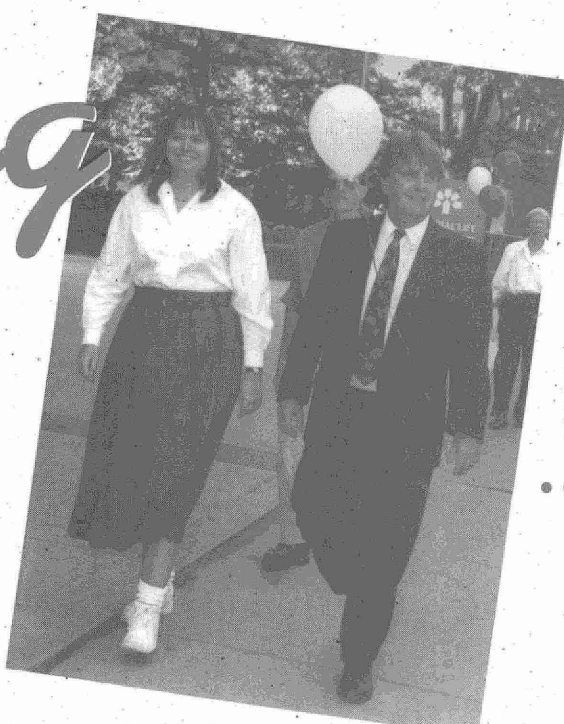
### Share-a-ride

Two people in a vehicle cuts the fuel consumption per person in half. Less cars on the road mean less pollution.

Here's how to get to the ClearAir Centre.

# Lending

Staff get into the United Way spirit at ministry special events. ■





# CCME PRESIDENCY MOVES TO ONTARIO

by Bill Dodds



Brenda Elliott, Minister of Environment and Energy

MINISTER BRENDA ELLIOTT LAST October became president of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment. Mrs. Elliott replaced Yukon Minister of Renewable Resources Mickey Fisher in the office which rotates annually among its 13 members.

In a letter which appeared in CCME's newsletter, Mrs. Elliott wrote, "Nationally and as provinces and territories, our challenge and number one goal is to ensure top quality protection and continued improvement for the environ-

ment in these tough economic times. Governments have to live within their means. Our initiatives must produce top results and focus on the essentials and on careful and wise expenditures without sacrificing environmental protection."

Mrs. Elliott has identified some of the key elements of the CCME's agenda for the next year. These include:

- continued co-ordination with energy ministers on air issues, including greenhouse gases;

- developing a national approach to toxic substance management;
- the economic dimensions of environmental management — maximum environmental gain with minimum economic pain.

"I know that by working together as ministers and by building working partnerships with municipalities, industry, business, interest groups and the people of Canada, we can make real progress on these issues," she concluded in the letter. ■

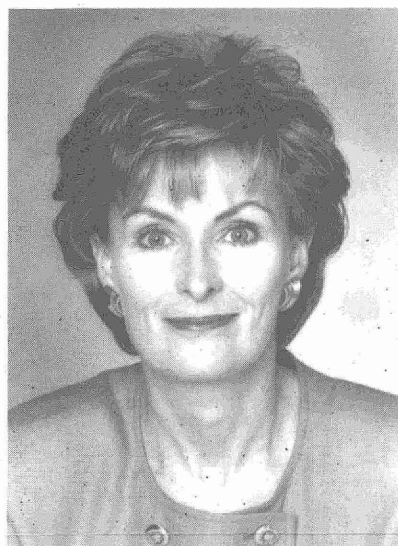
## Deputy's Column

As we enter a new year we typically reflect on the year past and the year to come. There is no doubt these are times of significant change.

The fiscal issues for the government are daunting. As the government proceeds with its mandate to bring public spending under control all Ontarians will be affected in some way. This year we will pay close to \$9 billion in interest costs alone—a legacy from the past 10 years in which government spending doubled and accumulated debt tripled. Debt repayment is the government's most expensive program, outweighing our spending on hospitals or on all levels of education.

At MOEE, we have been able to meet our reductions announced on July 21 and, more recently, reductions announced as part of the November Fiscal and Economic Statement. Like all other ministries, we will also feel the effect on our budget this year.

As we pare down and focus on our core businesses—conserving energy and protecting the environment—there will be tough decisions to be made. I can only



promise you honesty and fairness and a commitment to keep you as up-to-date as possible.

As MOEE staff, our job continues to be providing the minister and the government with the best advice in reaching and implementing their decisions. I find it very encouraging that the ministry has moved forward to help implement such initiatives as the Ontario-Hydro five-year rate freeze, clarifying and streamlining our regulations, and establishing the Advisory Committee on Competition in Ontario's Electricity System. You have always done an outstanding job of serving the minister and the government and I know you will continue to do so.

On a personal note, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families the gifts of health and happiness in the new year. ■

## Amethyst winner

by Barbara Kuszniir



Congratulations to **SHARON SUTER** of the Environmental Bill of Rights Office, on being chosen this year's Amethyst Award winner for excellence in client/public service. Throughout her 11-year career in the OPS, Sharon's commitment to excellence and her willingness to go the extra mile to get the job done have impressed management and colleagues alike.

Well done, Sharon!

# helping



# hand!

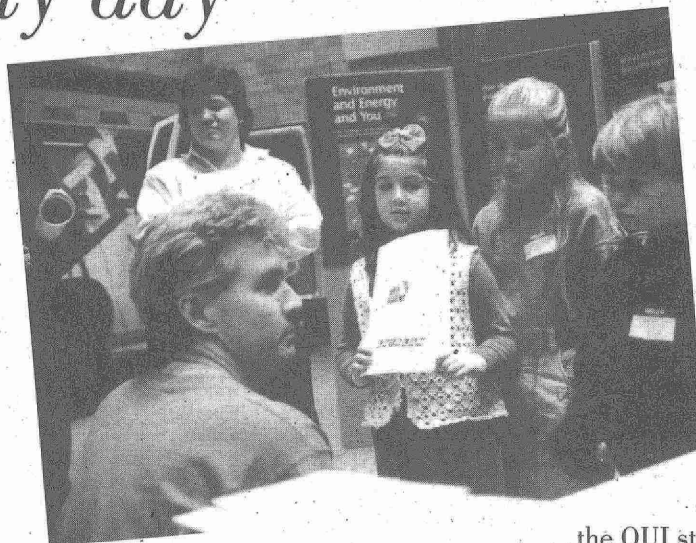


# MOEE at Hamilton-Wentworth's sustainable community day

by Rick Day

**H**amilton's Convention Centre was the principal site for this year's Hamilton-Wentworth Sustainable Community Day, as MOEE, along with more than 100 businesses, community groups and government agencies, presented their initiatives, products and services. It was a marvellous opportunity for the region to focus on its environmental achievements and initiatives.

The second annual HWSCD was held from November 3 to 4 and MOEE used the occasion to promote the ministry's efforts to improve air quality in Hamilton-Wentworth and teach young Hamiltonians how they can help protect the environment in their community.



Regional communications adviser Rick Day answers questions at MOEE's exhibit.

In all, MOEE had three static displays and an interactive air quality exhibit which was a real hit with the many children at HWSCD.

It consisted of a portable gas chromatography, a sulphur dioxide monitor and a

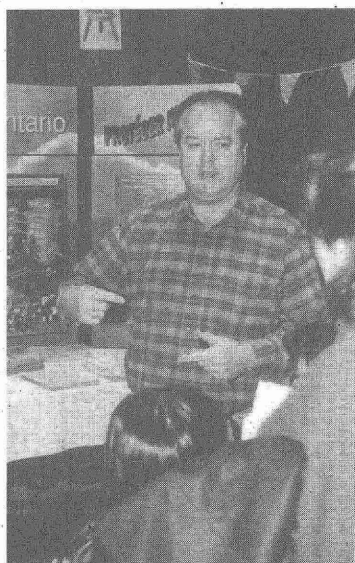
laptop computer identifying the QUI stations in West Central Region.

Children and adults alike were impressed by the information available on improvements in Hamilton's air quality. Two videos, one on MOEE's emergency response to the Hagersville tire fire and one showing video cameras that monitor Hamilton's industrial core, were also included in MOEE's booth. The displays were a co-operative venture between Operations Division and Communications Branch.

In all, about 1,500 school children, along with many more adults, attended the 1995 edition of HWSCD which included numerous exhibits, workshops, bus, walking and bicycle tours and open houses.

This Ontario community has a lot to be proud of. In 1994, Hamilton-Wentworth won Canada's Environmental Achievement Award and the Recycling Council of Ontario's Waste Minimization Award and it was profiled at the 1995 meeting of the United Nation's Commission on Sustainable Development.

With worthwhile events such as this, where business, industry and government work together, this community will continue to protect the environment and act as a role model for other communities in the future. ■



Senior environmental officer Bill Branch tells local students about air quality.



Have you got a photo, story or envirotip that we can use? Green Transmissions is looking for material for upcoming issues. We'd especially like to hear from the regions. To contribute, please contact Linda Cooper at (416) 323-5965 or by email at ENV2N03: COOPERLI. You might even win a prize!

## Provincial First!

Congratulations to Peter Dillon of MOEE's Science and Technology Branch in Dorset for being appointed a member of the Royal Society of Canada. Good work!

## AND THE WINNERS ARE:

Congratulations to MOEE's 1995 Communicators' FORUM Award winners.

### SILVER

Maria Vucajnk,  
Kathy Nosich and  
Kim Massicotte for  
THE GREEN GAZETTE.

### SILVER

Tim Paleczny and  
Vo Tran for  
INFOSHARE.

### HON. MENTION

Morris Ilyniak and  
Jane Hargraft for  
GREEN HORIZONS.

## Green Transmissions November / December 1995

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through its people. It is printed on 100 per cent post consumer recycled stock.

**Green Transmissions** welcomes letters, photographs and stories. Be sure to provide contact names and telephone numbers with your stories and letters. Black and white photographs are preferred. If black and white photos are not available, please send negatives with colour prints. Please give six to eight weeks notice for upcoming events to ensure that they are reported in a timely fashion.

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